

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 NEA-10 CCO-00 CIAE-00

OTPE-00 EB-11 FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01

COME-00 SCI-06 NASA-04 DRC-01 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 /172 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5491

INFO DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LONDON 13170

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJECT: SATELLITE TERMINAL AT DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 221996

1. WE SPOKE TO FOREIGN OFFICE (JACKSON, HEAD DEFENCE DEPT) THIS MORNING ABOUT DEPLOYMENT OF SATELLITE TERMINAL AT DIEGO, FURNISHING INFO IN PARAS ONE AND TWO REFTEL. JACKSON CONFIRMED THAT UK APPROVED DEPLOYMENT OF THIS TEMPORARY SATELLITE TERMINAL. HE SAID THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO SETTING UP EQUIPMENT AND TESTING TO ASSURE THAT IT FUNCTIONAL ON NOVEMBER 12. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT ANY USE OF VOICE LINK BETWEEN DIEGO TERMINAL AND CINCPAC VIA INTELSAT REQUIRES APPLICATION TO INTELSAT BOARD BY UK GOVERNMENT AS POWER EXERCISING SOVEREIGNTY OVER DIEGO GARCIA. FCO HAD SPOKEN THIS WEEK TO BRITISH MEMBER OF INTELSAT BOARD ABOUT PROCESSING PROBABLE APPLICATION FOR TERMINAL ON DIEGO, AND LEARNED
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THAT REQUEST FOR APPROVAL COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED BY

INTELSAT BOARD UNTIL NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 5.

2. JACKSON POINTED OUT THAT FCO HAD REQUESTED NECESSARY INFORMATION FROM US EARLIER THIS WEEK SO THAT BRITISH COULD PROCEED URGENTLY WITH INTELSAT CLEARANCE. EMBASSY STRESSED THIS REQUIREMENT TO DEPARTMENT IN DILLERY-PASSAGE PHONCON NOVEMBER 6.

3. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, JACKSON SAID NOTHING COULD BE DONE UNTIL NOVEMBER 12 WHEN BRITISH WOULD DO THEIR BEST TO SORT THINGS OUT IN EFFORT TO SECURE PROMPTEST INTELSAT APPROVAL. HE ADDED BRITISH WILL OF COURSE GIVE MATTER A FAIR WIND. HE WAS QUITE EXPLICIT IN SAYING THAT DIEGO-CINCPAC LINK COULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE TESTED THROUGH INTELSAT NOR COULD IT GO INTO ACTUAL OPERATION UNTIL INTELSAT BOARD CLEARANCE GIVEN. FCO ARRANGING FOR GUIDANCE ALONG FOREGOING LINES TO BE SENT TO BRITISH AUTHORITIES ON DIEGO.

4. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH BRITISH ON NOVEMBER 12. IF DEPARTMENT HAS DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR UK TO SEEK INTELSAT BOARD APPROVAL FROM ONE WHICH JACKSON GAVE US, WE REQUEST URGENT GUIDANCE.

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